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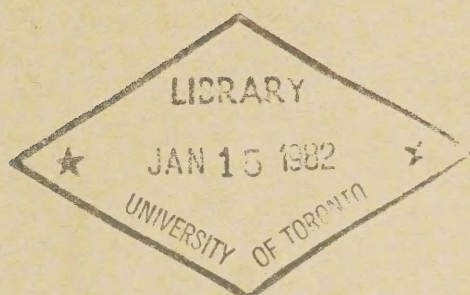
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# Guidelines

## For the removal and treatment of *asbestos* on construction projects



DEPOSITORY LIBRARY MATERIAL

## Purpose

Until regulations are in place prescribing asbestos as a designated substance for construction projects, the following guidelines are provided to the construction industry for the removal and treatment of asbestos.

October 1981





# Application

*The following guidelines apply to all construction projects where asbestos is present, handled, or removed, including demolition, renovation and similar work.*

## Asbestos removal

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- 1 Asbestos removal operations shall be segregated so that adjacent areas are not contaminated with asbestos dust.

This means sealing off with plastic sheeting, taped securely in place, all openings and fixtures in and around the perimeter of the work area, including, but not limited to, heating and ventilation ducts, doorways, corridors, windows, skylights and lighting.

A double barrier of plastic sheeting or similar material shall be provided at all entrances and exits to the work areas so that the work area is always closed off by one barrier when workers enter or exit.

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- 2 A caution sign shall be placed inside and immediately outside the work area. The signs should advise people entering the area of the hazards of exposure to asbestos.

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- 3 The asbestos material shall, where practicable, be thoroughly soaked with water prior to removal. A wetting agent of 50 per cent polyoxyethylene ester and 50 per cent polyoxyethylene should be added to the water to enhance penetration.

Precautions shall be taken when working in proximity to energized electrical equipment.

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- 4 Loose asbestos material shall not be allowed to accumulate on the floor or other surfaces after removal operations. Damp bulk asbestos may be handled by manual methods. All loose asbestos material shall be cleaned up with a high efficiency particulate aerosol filter vacuum or by wet mopping and disposed of in sealed containers that have been marked with the warning that asbestos is contained inside. Dry sweeping shall not be allowed.

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- 5 The containers of asbestos waste material shall be disposed of at a dump site approved by the Ministry of the Environment.

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- 6 Employees entering the segregated work area shall wear NIOSH approved (TC-21C) respiratory protection or equivalent.

All respirators and filters shall be stored in a dust-free location to provide protection from exposure to dust prior to their use. Filters shall be disposed of after each shift.

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- 7 Workers shall not eat, drink or smoke in the contaminated work area. Workers shall remove their work clothes and footwear, and shall use proper wash facilities prior to proceeding to non-contaminated areas.
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## Asbestos encapsulation

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- 1 Where a sealant is used to cover friable asbestos insulation or similar material containing friable asbestos, the procedures referred to in items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 under 'Asbestos removal' shall be carried out.
  - 2 Respiratory protection shall be provided against the sealant as well as against asbestos.
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## Demolition of structures containing asbestos

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- 1 Prior to the demolition, partial demolition or renovation of a building or similar structure, all friable asbestos material shall be removed using the procedures referred to under 'Asbestos removal'.
  - 2 Friable fibrous material present in buildings or similar structures must not be assumed to be asbestos-free unless records or analysis have confirmed it to be so.
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## Additional precautions

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- 1 All personnel engaged in asbestos removal or at risk in consequence of it, should be provided with full body coveralls, disposable head covers, safety footwear and respiratory protective equipment, together with safety hat and protective eye goggles.
  - 2 Ideally, a mobile unit should be provided in which workers can, in sequence, discard their contaminated clothing at one end, shower in the middle section and don their uncontaminated clothes at the other end. If this is not feasible, then suitable alternative arrangements are to be provided. This could mean a change room and two separate lockers or storage containers so that workers can keep street clothes and work clothes separate.
  - 3 Disposable contaminated clothing shall be disposed of with the asbestos waste referred to in item 5 under 'Asbestos removal'.  
  
If the work clothes are re-usable, arrangements should be made for collecting contaminated clothing in a clearly marked container for cleaning.
  - 4 Containers of asbestos material shall not be dropped out of windows or from one floor to the next. Asbestos material shall be transported within the building in containers or dust-tight chutes.
  - 5 The constructor and employer shall maintain an Asbestos Exposure Register identifying all workers exposed to asbestos, recording the duration of the asbestos exposure and the protective equipment employed. A copy of the records shall be submitted to the Chief Physician, Occupational Health Medical Service, Ministry of Labour.
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\*Toll free (Long Distance). For further information consult the government listing in your local telephone book.